

Tallil Times

407th Air Expeditionary Group, Ali Base, Iraq

Mar. 04, 2005

IN BRIEF-

Tent City renaming contest continues

The votes have been tallied and the list is down to five.

Squadron first sergeants will be going around their squadrons and collecting everyone's vote. First sergeants will tally all their votes and the top three winners will be chosen. Once Colonel Diggett, 407 AEG commander, approves the new name the prizes will be awarded.

The awards are:

1st place: JVC 3 CD Compact Component System

2nd place: JVC Portable Anti-Shock CD/CD-R/RW Player

3rd place: \$15 AAFES Gift Certifi-

Secure tents

During the recent wind storm here many tent flys and tents themselves were damaged. Be sure and secure your tent flys and tents securely to the ground. Call 445-2237 to report any damage.

Sick call

The Air Force Flight Medical Clinic is now offering non-emergency sick call hours for all Air Force personnel and the Iraqi 23rd Squadron.

They are located in Tent City with the Army E-Med unit.

Sick call hours are as follows:

Monday thru Friday from (0800-1100 and 1300-1600). Saturday (0800-1100 hours).

Out processing and immunization actions will also be accomplished during the hours of sick call.

All personnel must be in uniform. Emergency medical treatment is still provided by the Army E-Med unit in tent city



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

A C-130 Hercules takes off from Ail Base. The 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron has flown over 700 combat sorties transporting over 7,000 troops and 1,500 tons of cargo since standing up here in Dec.

777th providing the airlift

By Capt. Tom Lankford

777th EAS instructor pilot

As you are about to doze off to sleep, you may hear a loud growling sound coming from the flight line and think, "can't they turn that thing down?" The noise, referred to as the "sound of freedom" by many aircrews, is a constant reminder of the C-130 Hercules presence at Ali Base.

The 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, also known as the "Dueling Dragons," carries the distinction of being the only C-130 squadron currently deployed inside Iraq

The "Triple Seven" has a long history dating back to WW II, but in 1963 while part of the 314th Wing at Pope AFB, N.C., it made a conversion from bombers to its current airframe, C-130s.

The 777th saw action in both Africa and Vietnam before being deactivated in 1971.

In 2002 the squadron was reactivated at Masirah Air Base, Oman, then later moved to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, flying missions in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

In Dec. 2004, the "Dueling Dragons" were asked to move once again, this time to Ali Base, Iraq, in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

The majority of 777th personnel and the four assigned C-130 aircraft come from Little Rock AFB, Ark., with others from Andrews, Pope, Dyess, Robins and Scott AFBs to round out the team.

The unit is tasked with delivering troops, equipment and supplies to coalition forces at austere locations throughout Iraq, as well as medevacing wounded personnel to theater care facilities.

A small portion of the unit is tasked with training the Iraqi Air Force crews of Squad-

See 777, Page 3

Commander's Corner

Do the right thing

By Maj. Karn L. Carlson

407th ELRS commander

"Do the Right Thing" is a 1989 film written and directed by Spike Lee. You'll be disappointed if you thought I was going to write a movie review.

If you watch a person – any person – long enough, they will do the wrong thing. Sometimes it is easy for us to see only those negative areas – I find myself doing that regularly. Instead, we should focus on the positive areas – on doing the right things. Here are some thoughts on how we can strive to do the right thing on a daily basis.

For yourself – What "right things" are you doing for yourself? Are you taking this opportunity to expand your horizons or improve yourself? How about physical training (PT) – do you have a good PT program for yourself? Perhaps you could take a few CLEP or DANTES tests. Develop your spiritual relationship. Read a few books you've always wanted to read. Develop better eating habits. This is a wonderful place to

develop life-style habits that you can continue after you redeploy.

For others – "Do the right thing" for other people – clean up after yourself, save water, etc. Remember the "Golden Rule"? It's from Matthew 7:12 and is paraphrased as "treat others the way you would like others to treat you". If you're doing things to improve yourself, you can be an example to others who may need a little encouragement. You can be a mentor to a junior person. You can volunteer in one of the many organizations and activities on base.

For your unit – When you come in to work, do you strive to "do the right thing" for mission accomplishment? I am continually encouraged by all the great things people are doing here. We each have an opportunity to contribute to the rebuilding of Iraq and while we're at it, to "make it better" here at Ali. I am sure that each one of us can do at least one thing to improve mission effectiveness, make things more efficient, improve the quality of life, or save taxpayer dollars.

"That lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." — Ralph Waldo Emerson, American essayist, philosopher and poet (1803-1882). What this means to me, is that even though I'm continually faced with challenges, I have the power and the ability to make things better. We should all strive to "do the right thing" whenever possible, wherever possible.

RISER AR FORCE

Congrats Colonel...

Congratulations Colonel (S) John H. Kresek on your recent selection for promotion. Colonel (S) Kresek is currently the 407th AEG deputy commander. He comes to us from Offutt AFB, NE., where he is the 55th Mission Support Squadron commander. He would like to thank his squadron members and family back home for making this promotion possible.

Tallil Talks ...

If you could have any meal, what would it be?



Staff Sgt. Sarah Ryan, 407th ECES: "A real porterhouse steak and baked potato."



777th EAS:

"If I could have any meal I wanted, it'd have to be my wife's chicken enchiladas.

They never turn out the same way twice since she doesn't use a recipe, but they're always good. Of course, I can't get them here so it'd mean I was at home."

Tech. Sgt. Bill Van Newkirk,



The Tallil Times

EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Dennis M. Diggett Commander, 407th AEG

Master Sgt. Terry J. Nelson Editor/Chief, Public Affairs This funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the *TALLIL TIMES* are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

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ron 23. Squadron 23 is the first operational flying squadron in Iraq and employs three Iraqi C-130s, given to them by the U.S.

Unfortunately for most of us in Tent City, the 777th flies missions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Since arriving at Ali in Dec., the squadron has flown over 700 combat sorties transporting over 7,000 troops and 1,500 tons of cargo.

The work is long (14-16 hour days) and often dangerous, as the recent shoot down of the British Royal Air Force C-130 attests.

"That was really a stark reminder that Iraq is still a very dangerous place even for aircrew," said 1st Lt. Justin Diehl, 777th EAS, C-130 co-pilot.

Enemy activity is just one of the issues crews are confronted with. It is not uncommon for an aircrew to have a "re-frag" (schedule change) that completely changes the original mission. Therefore, crews must be well versed on the arrival and departure procedures, as well as threats at all fields in theater. Another issue aircrews deal with is sleep deprivation.

"Unlike most jobs in the States, we don't have a set schedule," adds 1st Lt. Drew Judkins, 777th EAS, C-130 co-pilot. "We can be scheduled to fly all night, then turn around a day later and be asked to fly all day."

As mentioned previously, the 777th delivers troops all over the country, but one of its most rewarding missions is carrying



Photos by Master Sat. Terry Nelson

A U.S. C-130 Hercules is unloaded here Feb. 23., as it sits along side a Japanese and Romanian C-

troops out of the combat zone after their tours are up.

"It's always nice to see the looks on their faces when they get on the plane knowing they're beginning their trip home," said Capt. A.J. Prince, 777th EAS, C-130 pilot."

Now that you know a little bit more about the 777th and what we do here at Ali Base, maybe that growling noise you hear as you try to go to sleep won't be quite so annoying...just remember that one day it will be you on that plane beginning your trip home.



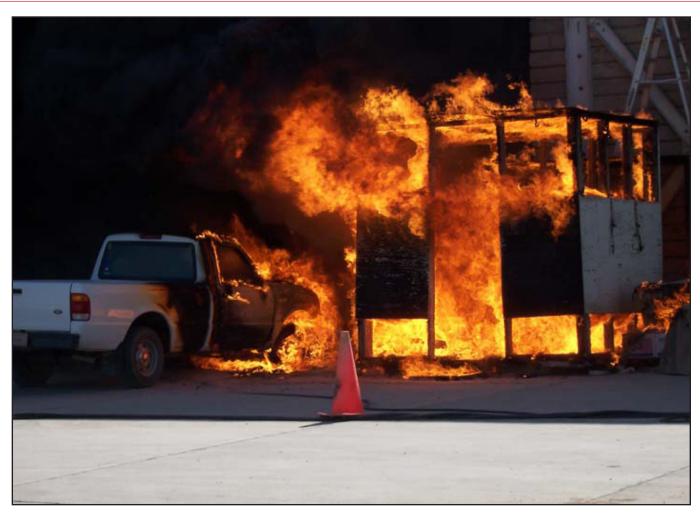
An Iraqi C-130 prepares to take off here Jan. 23. The 777th EAS is training the Iraqi crew on how to fly and maintain the aircraft.



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Fire...Fire...Fire...

The 407th AEG safety office, along with the fire department investigated this fire here Feb. 23. The investigation revealed that the fire started in a wooden structure apparently utilized as a smoking area, and spread to this vehicle parked approximately six feet from the structure. There was an ammunition can found in the center of the structure which was being utilized as a cigarette butt can. It is not clear if the ammo can fell before or after the fire, however the ammo can contained several empty cigarette packs and other combustible material. The heaviest charring occurred directly under where the ammo case was found indicating thefires point of origin.

Personal Protective Equipment...The Intelligent Worker's Body Armor

Every mishap prevention effort begins with properly identifying hazards before beginning operations. But simply identifying hazards isn't always enough. Hazards should be engineered out, isolated and guarded against, whenever possible before considering the use of your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

As a supervisor assigning critical tasks is important, yet supervisors have a greater responsibility to stay alert to the current PPE requirements for their personnel. While PPE devices should not be relied upon solely to protect against hazards, they should be used in combination with guards, engineering controls, and sound manufacturing practices.

All too often workers begin performing tasks without clearly identifying the minimum PPE requirements. Many operations fail

simply because personnel aren't "safety-proof" from the outset. Whether it's respiratory protection for masonry work or eye and face protection for handling corrosives, identifying PPE requirements for your personnel can significantly reduce the likelihood of personnel suffering long-term, detrimental effects through inhalation, absorption or physical contact.

All Air Force personnel, by directive, will comply with PPE requirements, on and off-duty. Requirements include ensuring proper PPE is provided and used, when required, PPE is adjusted to fit properly and be maintained in a sanitary and serviceable condition.

With great achievements comes great responsibility... providing a safe working climate is the key to overall mission success. Making Ali Base better in a combat environment means preparing our Air Force personnel by identifying hazards in advance, and if needed, utilizing required PPE to make operations safe and "risk- free".

(Article courtesy of the 407th AEG Safety Office)



ino Night a huge success

The action was fast and furious Saturday night at the Big Top during the base's first Casino Night. The big winners were:

1st Place: Senior Airman Marc Pliska, 777th EAMXS

Prize: HP IPOD

2nd Place: Senior Master Sgt. Whitney Jackson, 407th AEG

Prize: Camcorder

3rd Place: Staff Sgt. Christian

Mair, 407th ECS

Prize: Portable DVD Player 4th Place: Staff Sgt. Anthony

Powell, 777th EAS

Prize: Kodak Digital Camera

5th Place: Staff Sgt. Chris Friberg, 407th ELRS

Prize: MP3 Walkman



A volunteer deals cards during Saturday's Casino Night at the Big Top.



Chief Master Sgt. John Graves, 192nd Airlift Squadron's "High Rollers" from the Reno, Nev., Air National Guard, gets ready to place a bet Saturday during Casino Night at the Big Top.



Technical Sgt. Eric Dugger, 407th ESVS, rolls the dice at the craps table here Saturday night. The 407th ESVS sponsored the Casino Night at the Big Top.

Inspirational speaker Dan Clark visits Ali

By Master Sgt. Terry J. Nelson

407th AEG Public Affairs

Mr. Dan Clark, inspirational speaker and contributing author for the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* book series, visited Ali Base Feb. 23.

Mr. Clark spoke to nearly 200 Airmen at the Big Top, had lunch with Airmen at the Coalition Cafe and made a quick stop at the

Ziggurat. Mr. Clark stopped here as part of his inspirational speaking tour of Iraq. He visited numerous locations in the AOR before heading home late last month. Many Airmen had an opportunity to talk or have their picture taken with him and he signed numerous autographs.

Upon his departure Mr. Clark was presented with a base coin and T-shirts from Airmen here.







(Top) Mr. Dan Clark talks to nearly 200 Airmen here Feb. 23, at The Big Top. Mr. Clark is a nationally known inspirational speaker and a contributing author for the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* book series. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Darcie Ibidapo)

(Left) Mr. Clark talks with Airmen during lunch at the Coalition Cafe Feb. 23. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Darcie Ibidapo)

(Bottom Left) Mr. Clark visits the Ziggurat during his stop at Ali Base. (Photo by Chief Master Sgt. James Lawrence)

(Below) Colonel Dennis M. Diggett, 407th AEG commander, Col. (sel) John Kresek, 407th AEG deputy commander and Chief Master Sgt. James Lawrence, 407th AEG superintendent, await the arrival of Mr. Clark and his escorts here Feb 23. (Photo by Master Sgt. Terry Nelson)



Congratulations March promotees

By Master Sgt Terry J. Nelson

407th AEG Public Affairs

Airmen from the 407th Air Expeditionary Group were presented with new stripes Monday during the March enlisted promotion ceremony held at the Big Top here in Tent City.

Twenty enlisted members with promotion dates effective Mar. 1, were formally recognized, and had their new rank "tacked on" by friends and co-workers as a crowd of 250 people were on hand to show their support.

Promoted to Airman First Class:

Cody Hudson, Desiree Roberts and Terrence Murray

Promoted to Senior Airman:

Danny Smith, Rachel Salvo, Justin Sconce, George Jennings, Craig Hall, Ryan LaBreck, Dustin Jolman, Till Schanz, Elton Brock and Matthew Fortin

Promoted to Staff Sergeant:

Jason Ylagan, Robert Lee, Christopher Jacobs, Scott Tidwell and Josh Fitch

Promoted to Technical Sergeant:

Kenneth Lavin

Promoted to Master Sergeant:

Raymond Mancini

Conducting monthly promotion ceremonies involve hard work and the combined efforts of many people. The March ceremony was spearheaded by the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

A special thanks to:

The MCs for the ceremony; Senior Master Sgt. Maurice Stansbury and Master Sgt.



Photos by Master Sqt. Mark Bucher and Staff Sqt. Darcie Ibidapo

March promotees to Staff Sgt. take the Noncommissioned Officer's Oath here Monday. The Oath is read by Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Justice, 407th ELRS.

Lawrence Robinson, 407th ECES.

Honor Guard members; Tech. Sgt. Derrick Lepper, 407th AEG, Senior Airman Duy Duong, 407th ESVS, Airman 1st Class Vergel Mendoza, 407th ESVS, Airman Tarig Hassanali, 407th ESVS and Staff Sgts. Keith Davis and Scott Tennyson, 407th ECS.

Senior Master Sgt. Bob Green, 407th ECES, who sang the National Anthem.

Father (Maj.) Joe Deichert 407th AEG, for the invocation.

Proctors; Senior Airmen Ramiro Garza, and Eric Pavelka, 407th ECES.

Members of Focus 56; Tech. Sgt. Kim-

berly Justice, 407th ELRS and Staff Sgts. Ryan Boyd and Cory Fletcher, 407th ECES.

Top Three members; Senior Master Sgts. Rob Appling, 407th ECES and Whitney Jackson, 407th AEG.

Master Sgt. Mark Bucher, Staff Sgt. Darcie Ibidapo and Airman 1st Class Jennifer Wallen 407th ECS, for taking photos.

And lastly, 1st Lt. Tyler Lake, 407th AEG, for putting all the information together.



Master Sergeant Raymond Mancini, 407th ESFS, accepts congratulations Monday from Chief Master Sgt. James Lawrence, 407th AEG superintendent after taking the Senior Noncommissioned Officer's Oath.



Airman 1st Class Desiree Roberts has her new rank "tacked on" by Airman 1st Class Jennifer Wallen (Left) and Staff Sgt. Darcie Ibidapo, 407th ECS, at Monday's promotion ceremony.

407th AEG Warrior of the Week A1C KeNosha Whiley-Smith



Unit: 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron Home unit: 354th Services Sq., Eielson AFB, AK. Why other warriors say she's a warrior:

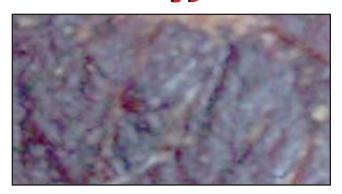
She accepted NCO responsibility by becoming nightshift, shift leader as an Airman 1st Class. She has rewritten the day and night shift on-duty checklist. She was also selected by a group of her peers as the treasurer for the First Four Committee. She is an active member of the Ali Base Honor Guard. She assisted with the Casino Night Form 9 worth \$1.1K.

Hobbies: Reading, shopping and doing research on the computer.

What is your most memorable Air Force experience: Receiving a coin from General Schmidt while deployed in Haiti.

Your family: Being able to give blood to my little sister with Sickle Cell.

Identify This



KNOW WHAT THIS IS? Each week, the "Tallil Times" staff takes a photo from around Ali Base. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil. with "Identify This" in the subject block. The winner gets their name printed in the Tallil Times. Congratulations to Senior Airman Carlos Sauceda who was the first to correctly identifying the photo in last week's newspaper of the bottom of a desert combat boot.

Wild Iraqi Safari

Bats!

If you look up in the sky after sunset, especially around lights, you may see bats flying around.

Although many people are nervous about bats, they pose little threat to people who don't try to handle them and they provide many useful services. Bats are important for pollination and seed dispersal of



plants such as bananas, mangos, and cashews. They also help control pest insects; a single bat can catch 1,200 small insects in only an hour!

Because bats are mammals, they're warmblooded, have fur, bear their pups live and feed them milk.

There are over 1,100 species of bats in the world. The two main types of bats are Microchiroptera and the Megachiroptera.

Microchiropteran bats are generally small, eat insects and use echolocation (a type of

sonar) to navigate. Megachiropteran bats are large, have dog-like faces, eat fruit, nectar and pollen and live in tropical locations. Most don't use echolocation.

We only have microchiropteran bats here at Ali, so when the dining facility runs out of fruit, don't blame it on the bats.

Bats aren't blind, but they rely on echolocation while flying to avoid obstacles and predators and to locate insects to eat. They make high frequency calls from their mouths or noses and then listen for the echoes to bounce back from objects in front of them. Bats can also sense people this way, so they won't accidentally run into you.

Compared to rabbits or other small mammals, bats are very slow to reproduce. Most produce only one pup per year. This makes bats especially vulnerable to extinction, so don't bother our bats at Ali!

Column courtesy of John Ploch, Vector Control, KBR contractor and Maj. Sharon Spradling, 407th Leishmaniasis Surveillance and Investigation Team.



OUTAND ABOUT



Worship services

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 445-2006.

Sunday

0730 Catholic Confession @ Chapel/Chaplain's

Office

0800 Roman Catholic

Mass @ Chapel

0930 Traditional Protestant

Service @ Chapel

1000 LDS Service @

Army Religious Activity

Center

1030 Roman Catholic

Mass @ Camp Cedar

1230 Gospel Service @

Big Top

1800 Contemporary Praise Team Rehearsal @ Chapel

1900 Contemporary

Worship Service @ Chapel

Monday

 $\mathbf{1800} \ \mathsf{Weekday} \ \mathsf{Mass} \ @$

Chapel

1830 Gospel Service

Prayer Hour @ Conf.

Room

1930 Gospel Choir

Rehearsal @ Big Top

Tuesday

0600 Weekday Mass @

Chapel

1900 RCIA @ Conf.

Room

Wednesday

1700 Catholic Choir

Rehearsal @ Chapel

1800 Weekday Mass @

Chapel

2000 40 Days of Purpose Bible Study @ Chapel

Thursday

0600 Weekday Mass @

Chapel

Annex

1830 Catholic Choir

Rehearsal @ Chapel

1900 LDS Study @ Army

Religious Activity Center 1945 Gospel Service Bible

Study @ Chapel

Friday

1800 Weekday Mass @

Chapel

1830 Gospel Choir

Rehearsal @ Chapel

1145 Islamic Prayer @

Army Religious Activity Center

Saturday

1730 Catholic Confession

@ Chapel/Chaplain's

Office

1800 Catholic Vigil Mass

(a) Chapel

1900 Contemporary Praise Team Rehearsal @ Chapel





Todau

Noon, The Incredibles 8 p.m., The Incredibles Midnight, The Incredibles

Saturday

Noon, Viewers Choice 8 p.m., Viewers Choice Midnight, Viewers Choice

Sunday

Noon, Alfie 8 p.m., Alfie Midnight, Alfie

Monday

Noon, Ray 8 p.m., Ray Midnight, Ray

Tuesday

Noon, The Grudge 8 p.m., The Grudge Midnight, The Grudge

Wednesday

Noon, Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow 8 p.m., Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow Midnight, Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

Thursday

Noon, Viewers Choice 8 p.m., Viewers Choice Midnight, Viewers Choice

March 11th

Noon, Viewers Choice 8 p.m., Viewers Choice Midnight, Viewers Choice





Members of 407th ELRS work together here Saturday to sort through four aircraft pallets of supplies donated from various communities back home. Among the boxes were toys, medical and school supplies, clothes and shoes for all ages. Their efforts amassed 13 tri-wall sized boxes which were being prepped for future distribution to the local Bedouins.



Photos by Master Sgt. Terry Nelson Airman 1st Class Lisa Kirby, 407th ELRS, sorts through boxes Saturday. Their efforts filled 13 tri-wall size boxes for distribution to the local Bedouins

ESVS Presents Just for fun

Tonight, Combat Bingo, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dominoes Tourney, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Spades, 8 p.m.

Monday, Purrfect Angelz, 8:00 p.m. Army's "House of Pain"gym **Tuesday**, Dominoes, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Madden League, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Chess Club, 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 11th, Combat Bingo, 7:30 p.m.

Muscle Beach Burns

Today, Yoga, 5:30 a.m.

Saturday, 5 on 5 Street Ball, 6 p.m.

Sunday, CO-ED Shot Out, 6 p.m.

Monday, Circuit Training, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Tai Chi 5:30 a.m., Dead Lift Competition 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Taebo, 5:30 a.m., Circuit Training, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Tai Chi, 5:30 a.m.

Mar. 11th, Yoga, 5:30 a.m., Circuit Training, 7:00 p.m.

From the Chapel SEA OF GALILEE

There are two seas. One is fresh, and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its healing waters. Along its shores the children play, as children have played for 2,000 years.

The river Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. So it laughs in the sunshine. Men build their houses near it, and birds their nests; and every kind of life is happier because it is there. The river Jordan flows on south into another sea.

Here is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its water, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink.

What makes this mighty difference in these two seas? Not the river Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. Not the soil in which they lay; not in the country round about.

This is the difference:

The Sea of Galilee RE-CEIVES but does NOT KEEP the Jordan. For every drop that flows into it another drop flows out.

The GIVING and RE-CEIVING go on in equal measure.

The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets it keeps.

The Sea of Galilee gives and lives.

The other sea gives nothing. It is named The Dead.